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Outline

- I. In the constitutional system of the United States, responsibility in the field of national security is divided between the executive and legislative branches.
 - A. The constitutional powers and duties of the President.
 - B. The constitutional powers of the Congress.
 1. The powers of the Senate in the ratification of treaties and confirmation of appointments.
- II. The President carries out his duties and responsibilities through a number of executive departments and independent agencies.
 - A. The Department of State is the most important in the field of foreign political relations.
 - B. The Department of Defense is charged with the military aspects of security policies.
 1. Includes the Departments of Army, Navy, and Air Force.
 2. The Joint Chiefs of Staff advise the Secretary of Defense and the NSC on strategic plans and dispositions.
 - C. Other departments and agencies with important national security responsibilities include the Treasury Department, The Office of Defense Mobilization, the Foreign Operations Administration, the Atomic Energy Commission, the Federal Civil Defense Administration, the Department of Justice (FBI), the Central Intelligence Agency, and the Operations Coordinating Board.
- III. The concept of the NSC grew out of several World War II experiences and practices of high executive officers.
 - A. Analysis of deficiencies in policy coordination before and during World War II.
 1. President's office principal focus of coordination.
 - a. No assurance that President received all pertinent advice and recommendations.
 - (1) Example of "Morgenthau Plan" for Germany.
 - b. No institutional arrangements for arriving at coordinated policy.

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2. Feeling that wide swings between civilian and military influence in policy-making occurred during periods of peace and war.
 3. White House "coordinators" (e.g. Harry Hopkins) needed but not deemed satisfactory permanent solution.
 4. Joint institutions of World War II period provided experience and suggested need for additional coordinating machinery.
 - a. Joint Chiefs of Staff
 - b. State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee and successor State-Army-Navy-Air-Committee.
 5. British example in Defense Committee of Cabinet with its permanent secretariat.
- IV. There were various reasons why existing governmental machinery could not be adapted to requirements for a high-level security council and why a new organization was needed.
- A. The Cabinet was unsuitable.
 1. Formless organization and nature of problems discussed.
 2. Included members with only marginal and occasional interest in security problems.
 3. High sensitivity security-wise of many national security issues.
 - B. JCS lacked regular political representation.
 - C. SWNCC and SANAC lacked statutory basis and were too low in official hierarchy.
- V. The National Security Council was created by Act of 1947 to make recommendations on national security problems.
- A. NSC not conceived of as an operating agency.
 1. Has supervision of CIA and OCB.
 - B. Given two main functions.
 1. Study the commitments and risks of the U.S. in relation to national capabilities.

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2. Provide a forum for the consideration and resolution of interdepartmental conflicts of policy.

VI. The organization of the NSC is the result of statutory prescription, Presidential orders, and custom.

- A. The Council consists of the President, statutory members, and invited members.
 1. The Chairman of the JCS and the DCI are permanent, non-voting members.
- B. The Planning Board consists of representatives of Council members.
 1. Requirement that they be able to speak for their agencies.
 2. Chairman is Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs.
- C. Staff Assistants Group of agency officers concerned with drafting and intradepartmental coordination.
- D. NSC Staff forms a small, permanent secretariat under Executive Secretary.

VII. Procedures of NSC.

- A. Problems may be brought before NSC by the President or any Council member.
- B. Planning Board considers policies and endeavors to resolve departmental differences.
 1. Relies on Staff Assistants for drafting.
 2. Effort made to identify real issues for Council consideration.
- C. Unresolved differences of Planning Board and Council placed before President in "split" papers.
- D. Execution of policies placed on one or more agencies.
- E. Periodical reports required of actions taken, when appropriate.

VIII. The NSC has proved to be an effective mechanism for the coordination of national security policies.

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- A. Its organization and procedures are fundamentally the same as they were when established.
 - 1. Vice-President has been added as statutory member.
 - 2. Other changes in membership due to abolition or creation of offices.
 - 3. Eisenhower proposal of non-departmental "elder statesmen" not pursued.
 - 4. Special Assistant for National Security Affairs introduced as chairman of the Planning Board.
- B. NSC has achieved objectives implicit in Act of 1947.
 - 1. It has weighed U.S. commitments and capabilities in respect to critical areas of the world.
 - 2. It has attempted to foresee problems under various contingencies.
 - 3. It has resolved and composed many interdepartmental differences.

IX. NSC is the "boss" and chief customer of CIA.

- A. NSC directs Intelligence Community through National Security Council Intelligence Directives.
 - 1. NSCID's are the basic "legislation" for Community
 - 2. Allot responsibilities and impose duties.
- B. The methods of providing intelligence to NSC.
 - 1. DCI briefs Council and participates in discussions as intelligence advisor.
 - 2. DD/I of CIA is a member of Planning Board and CIA has a full-time staff assistant for NSC affairs.
 - 3. National Intelligence Estimates are produced, in most cases, to meet needs of NSC.
 - 4. Special studies and reports provided.